

GRAYLING GENERATING STATION RECEIVES STTF GRANT

The Grayling Generating Station recently received an STTF Grant through Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium. This funding provided training opportunities at Kirtland Community College for 14 employees to upgrade their skills and become Certified Welders. Grayling Generating Station is thankful they no longer need to rely on outsourcing for their welding needs and the trainees are grateful for the new skills and certification they received. Both employer and employees feel this training would not have been feasible without the grant.

As an independent power plant producer of electricity operating 24/7, Grayling Generating Station has instances where they need welding jobs completed immediately. Training existing employees to become certified welders ensures these needs can be completed efficiently and will significantly reduce Grayling's outsourcing expenses. Additionally, this training allowed employees to expand their skillset, as well as increased productivity within Grayling Generating Station's Maintenance and Operations departments.

Training provider Erine Adams of Kirtland Community College was very impressed by the Generating Station's employees. Adams remarks, "Kirtland Community College is pleased to announce that during the course of training with the employees of Consumers Energy [Grayling] Generation Station that the progression surpassed any expectations of the trainers! With the employees hard work and the dedication of Kirtland trainers, each employee received not only the expected certification as was outlined in the training plan, but every employee received at least two (and up to four) certifications! From their efforts the number of certifications awarded increased from the expected 16 to approximately 45 total certifications. The benefits of the additional certification(s) to the employee and organization is that it allows for a broader range of welding abilities. This not only helps with the repairs and maintenance of the facilities, but also gives the employees valuable expertise that is highly sought after in industries all over Northern Michigan."